***T***

# THE PARISH OF CORPUS CHRISTI TONBRIDGE AND

#  ST PETER’S HADLOW

**TWINNED WITH PARISHES IN MALAWI**

***MALAWI* TWINNED WITH LINK PARISHES I**

##  I Give and it will be given to you… The measure you give shall be the measure you receive

 ***N***  Luke 6.38

  *Web Page: www.malawi-twin.org*

 Newsletter No 67

 January 2017

Dear Parishioners and Friends

Our Malawi project has experienced its best year ever; our giving was higher than in any of the previous years… *and we’ve probably saved a lot of lives!*

The rains have been poor for the past two years or so and the people in our three linked parishes were unable to sustain themselves from their meagre crop growth. The poorer people werestarving.

Your team responded three times during 2016, with money to buy maize.

Our total giving to Malawi in 2016 amounted to:

 £50,313.50

Here is a summary of the main projects supported…

Famine Relief – £15,300

In March, we sent £6,000 to these starving people and made an appeal for your further help. You gave a generous £7,357, which we rounded up to £7,500 before sending in April, with a further £1,800 sent in November.

*Thanks be to God, the rains have now arrived*.

 Solar Lights Appeal – £ 2,844

 Following Jill Davison’s appeal in October, you gave £2,844 to buy solar lights. This gift was shared between four parishes.

Parish Projects - £ 9,650

These are the ongoing installation and repair works which we have been aiding for the past 15 years. This year they included:

* Replacing the roof of a local area church in *Njale* parish. Fr Francis sent photographs which showed that the complete roof had collapsed. The parishioners were literally attending open air Masses – and hoping it didn’t rain!
* Installing electricity in two school blocks in *Karonga* and a nursery in *Njale*.
* Installing pews in two of the *Chiringa* parish churches. These are lines of solid cement blocks where worshippers sit (as opposed to sitting on the floor which they usually need to do).
* Major repairs to the community water well in *Njuli* parish, which had been broken down, leaving the people without water for six months.
* We also sent £500 to *Chiringa* parish to redecorate the presbytery, re-stock their goat farm and purchase four new tyres for the parish truck.

Container - £ 5,996.54

One major expense is the hire of sufficient space in the container to house the goods we send - this year it cost us £2,820. However, the value of goods sent is way above this cost. The balance is our purchase of many items – mainly educational and technological. These are either unavailable or too expensive to buy in Malawi.

Apart from the first two years, we have been blessed to receive a donation for the full cost of each container from one of our parish families. This has allowed us to buy in the extra items mentioned above.

Sponsorships – £1,225

Sadly, over the past few years the number of secondary school students being sponsored has declined. This is probably because other projects such as *Microloans* and *Solar Lights* are a more attractive way of giving. Also, these are an instant gift whereas *Sponsorships* are a four or five year commitment.

Our *Microloans project*, which is included in the parish projects, has already started to pay dividends because some of those involved are now able to earn enough to pay for their children to attend secondary school.

However, our parishioners are supporting five students through university. This higher grade of education comes at a greater cost than secondary school but these students are all bright young people, three of whom have been sponsored since starting secondary school.

Personal Giving

Several priests and others have received personal support from Parish families and this amounted to £10,100.

Our only administration costs are our unavoidable bank charges for transferring funds to Malawi. In 2016 we kept these costs to below .03% of the total given.

This is how our parish giving to Malawi has fared since 2002….

Thank you once again for your wonderful support.

Peter Wells

On behalf of your Malawi Team